



A report from the
Children's Trust Fund

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Chair, Children's Trust Fund Council

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Director, Children's Trust Fund

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The Children's Trust Fund was created in 1983 for the sole purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect. The Trust Fund was established within the executive branch of the state government, with Council members appointed by the legislative leadership and four state commissioners.

In its more than 20 years, the Council has facilitated the Trust Fund's efforts in a variety of ways: by supporting collaborative partnerships with state agencies and community-based groups, by increasing public awareness of the depth and magnitude of child abuse, and by raising funds to support the prevention programs that reach into every corner of our state.

More than 80 organizations receive contracts from the Trust Fund; others receive small grants or scholarships. The Trust Fund also provides a significant amount of professional and program development.

We have a rigorous annual research and evaluation program conducted by the University of Hartford, which allows us to continually monitor the progress of the services we provide and validate the outcomes.

I am pleased and proud to say that the Council has contributed in a meaningful way to the important work of the Trust Fund. In the future, the Council will continue to be active in pushing, prodding, and informing the state and federal legislatures of our successes and ongoing funding needs. We will continue to maintain research and evaluation data to present accurate information to staff and the Council. And finally we will seize creative opportunities to get our message of prevention of child abuse and neglect out to the general public.

As many of us have said in many ways, a hundred years from now, it will not matter what our bank account balance was or the kind of clothes we wore, but the world may be much different because we were important to the life of a child. To be important to the life of a child is truly the ultimate goal of the Children's Trust Fund Council.

Sincerely,

Flo Woodiel

Chairperson, Children's Trust Fund Council

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I am glad to present to you the work of the Children's Trust Fund. Each year, approximately 30,000 cases of child maltreatment are reported in Connecticut, and an additional 10,000 children are born into families with at least one significant risk factor for abuse or neglect. Recognizing the extent of the problem, the Connecticut General Assembly established the Children's Trust Fund in 1997 as a separate and independent state agency with the sole purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect.

Between 1997 and 2005, the Trust Fund coordinated, developed, or funded more than 200 programs and initiatives statewide designed to engage families before a crisis occurs — to actually keep abuse and neglect from happening.

We act in many areas: providing direct service, funding programs, raising public awareness of the issues, working on systems change, conducting research and evaluation, and training volunteers and others. We are continuously developing new programs and resources, and we are always willing to try out new ideas to serve our families.

Our work would not have been possible without the support and funding of both the federal and state governments, state agencies, private foundations, and individuals. A list of recent contributors may be found at the back of this report. We are also grateful to the many community-based programs, organizations, entities, service providers, and volunteers who have been working with us. Together, we are building momentum in a coordinated effort to support and nurture Connecticut's families.

This report describes our programs and services and outlines our work. My staff and I would be pleased to answer any questions or provide further information about our mission and our progress in preventing child abuse and

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Karen Foley-Sch
Sincerely,

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Children's
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who we are



In 1977, the Children's Trust Fund became an independent state agency in the Executive Branch, responsible to the General Assembly for the mission of preventing child abuse and neglect and establishing resources in communities statewide that support and strengthen families to ensure the positive growth and development of children.

The Connecticut General Assembly initially created the Trust Fund in 1983 as an advisory council to the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families. Over the years, both the Council and the Commissioner came to recognize that, in order to advance the goal of prevention, the Council needed to include other state agencies and additional partners. This recognition led to the 1997 legislation that broadened the mission of the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund works with state agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools, and community service organizations to recognize the potential for child abuse and neglect, identify families at risk, initiate programs that support these families, and build safe communities for children.

Overall goals are to:

Increase broad-based prevention efforts in communities

Create a continuum of services to meet the needs of all families

Create a network of agencies that can work together, support one another, and advance the prevention agenda

Increase public awareness and invite all to participate in prevention efforts

Work is guided by the ideas that there are strengths

in all families and that all cultures, individuals, families, and community agencies have much to contribute. We value teamwork and

recognize the critical importance of interdependence and collaboration at local, state, and federal levels in meeting our goals.

We help We provide parents and families with the resources they need to cope with the stresses in their lives and with

children —without resorting to abuse and neglect. Our programs provide comprehensive support and direct service to groups of

families considered as at risk, particularly those with a history of domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health issues; and those

with children with special needs and disabilities. Our programs are voluntary and usually occur in settings where our families are

located. Research has shown that the effects of abuse and neglect are often devastating to a child. Not only can maltreatment cause impairments in

physical, emotional, and cognitive development, serious injury or psychological problems, but it also can contribute to high dropout rates, involvement in criminal

justice, and substance abuse. Children with a history of abuse or neglect often end up on the caseloads of the Departments of Mental Health and Substance

Abuse, Corrections, and Social Services as adults.



ch identifies poverty as a critical factor that puts children at greater risk for developmental and behavioral problems, health disabilities, and cognitive delays. Our efforts, therefore, have centered on finding the most effective ways of assisting families, so they have a chance for a better future for themselves and their children.

Children's trust fund council The work of

Children's Trust Fund is directed by a 16-member inter-disciplinary board consisting of the Commissioners of the Department of Children and Families, Public Health, Social Services, and Education; and twelve others appointed by the House and Senate majority leaders representing business, the child abuse prevention field, parents, and pediatricians.

Council has thus come to truly represent a broad-based public-private partnership committed to the prevention of child abuse and to the well-being of children. The collaboration fostered by the members of the Council has strengthened our efforts to the development of our programs and initiatives.

Council advances the work of the Trust Fund by:

Providing broad-based counsel and general oversight

Reviewing, revising, and approving specific policies and programs, including budgets, allocation of funds, and awarding of

Drawing on the varied points of view of individual Council members regarding any opportunities and circumstances that may affect the Trust Fund

Assuring that the Trust Fund remains focused on its vision and long-term strategies

Getting involved with local agencies and organizations, service providers, and consumers



Fundraising and developing strategies that will expand funding sources to include corporations, civic groups, and private
Reporting to the General Assembly and Governor on the status of the Trust Fund and its programs
Developing legislative efforts to increase the knowledge of prevention programs that support families
Promoting and participating in activities that raise awareness of the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect

, the Council is the center of the passion surrounding the urgent need to prevent child abuse and neglect. The Council m
ons for the cause that drives the prevention efforts of the Trust Fund.

National alliance The Children's Trust Fund was initially formed as part of a national movement to establish such fun
Many state Trust Funds are now part of a National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds.

national Alliance promotes a system of services, laws, practices, and attitudes that supports families by enabling them to pr
n with a safe, healthy, and nurtured childhood. Its long-term plans and activities include advocating for increased public a
for community-based child abuse and neglect prevention activities, supporting and strengthening the state Trust Funds,
ness of the importance of strengthening families, and collaborating with other national child abuse prevention organization
ers of the National Alliance are catalysts for the development of community-based child abuse and neglect prevention pro
ates. They are also incubators for innovative prevention programs and services. The state Trust Funds are able to look at
nationally, review national research, and use these ideas to build and strengthen their own programs.

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existing agencies to incorporate a prevention component or focus into their ongoing work

Creating a knowledgeable work force that is well trained in prevention strategies and approaches

Initiating activities that improve the various systems that impact families

Conducting research that leads to more effective programs

Our most important work is in funding the programs that directly provide services to high-risk parents.

broaden our range of services to include the families of very young truants, children in socially isolated family day care settings, shaken baby syndrome, child sexual abuse, grandparent respite care, and group home for teenage girls at risk, parent leaders and children's rights..

Our programs operate in both long-term and short-term time frames. Our program on shaken baby syndrome and our program giving mini-grants to families to address immediate needs are examples of short-term actions. Other programs, such as our Nurturing Families Network, provide support to families over a longer period, dealing with various issues as they arise. The different time frames allow us to develop a range of ways to address problems and meet the specific needs of our families.

issues, if needed.

Our goals call for us to raise the visibility of the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect and to act as advocates for families. We have been developing events and activities to educate and raise awareness about these issues. We will continue to be part of a national movement, providing credible, compelling, and positive support and initiatives that will help us meet our overall mission.

ISSUES Research and activities in the area of child abuse and neglect regularly identify new issues, themes, and approaches that can help us in our work. The two most important issues we are working on now are differential response and

ishment.

Children and Families. An investigation may not uncover abuse or neglect, so the case is closed. The mother may or may not receive a referral to other services, and will likely not have further contact with DCF. The mother is on her own, and may not receive the help she needs.

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A differential response might refer the mother to a community-based organization that works with families that come to the attention of the DCF, but do not require the traditional investigative response. The organization will be in a position to work with the mother, help connect her to community resources, and help her receive the services and support she needs.

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Differential response policies have been adopted in 26 states and have been shown to make children safer sooner, deliver needed services faster, and increase the use of community resources by at-risk families.

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Corporal Punishment Another important issue is that of corporal punishment. Research has repeatedly shown that corporal punishment as a means of discipline is of limited effectiveness and has potentially deleterious effects.

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The Trust Fund recommends that parents be encouraged and assisted in the development of methods other than spanking for managing undesirable behavior. We suggest that our service providers work with families on developing a comprehensive approach that includes consideration of the parent-child relationship, reinforcement of

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State Forum and asked the providers to share their thoughts and opinions on working with parents on the issue of corporal punishment. The attendees then broke up into small groups to discuss how the Trust Fund could help them further with this issue.

research Research is an important component of the Trust Fund's activities. It is essential for all of our major programs to be rigorously evaluated and studied. The evaluation provides us with critical information about program performance and allows us to better understand and assess the impact of various interventions.

We also conduct research to better understand and assess areas of risk for child abuse and neglect, the effectiveness of various prevention service models, and strategies for improving the skills of our service providers.



Studying and Evaluating our Programs Our major programs and all organizations receiving funds from the Trust Fund undergo a rigorous evaluation process to assess the effectiveness and quality of the services offered, review recordkeeping, and identify areas for improvement. We allocate more than \$400,000 in our budget for this research.

We use a variety of tools to study our programs. For example, we asked a number of certified trainers, students, and field

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child abuse and neglect, the effectiveness of various prevention service models, and strategies for improving the skills of our service providers.



strategies for enhancement.

Our Study Circles Project brought together 100 personnel from 16 program sites to review the Nurturing Families Network Home Visiting program policies and to consider recommendations for program enhancement. This project led to the development of our Continuous Quality Improvement Committee, which reviews research and recommendations and converts the findings into practice enhancements, program revisions, and new program development. The Committee is composed of staff at all levels, representing a range of professional knowledge and field experience and presenting numerous points of view. By drawing on the talents and expertise of many people involved in different aspects of our work, the committee helps us build stronger programs, a stronger organization, stronger relationships with our partners, and more momentum for our advocacy activities.

Many of our program evaluation studies are conducted by the University of Hartford's Center for Social Research. Overall, these studies show that programs supported by the Trust Fund are meeting their goals. They are successfully providing support and assistance to high-risk families, reducing the incidence and severity of child abuse and neglect, and helping parents to become better, more responsible caregivers.

Our research has supported the belief that home visiting services and early childhood education efforts should go hand-in-hand and that home visiting should become an integral component of the state's early childhood education strategy.

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Studying What Works By studying what works, we are able to develop materials and curricula for our service providers based on tested and proven

helps us better understand and assess our at-risk families, learn more about the issues they face, and learn how to meet their needs more effectively. We are able to provide our program staff with training in the skills and knowledge they need to engage in prevention activities and work with vulnerable families.

Several studies have shown us how to combine programs to increase effectiveness. For example, our research has supported the belief that home visiting services and early childhood education efforts should go hand-in-hand and that home visiting should become an integral component of the state's early childhood education strategy.

The University of Hartford's Center for Social Research has conducted a number of studies for us in relation to the Nurturing Families Network program. The two most important studies are *Life Stories of Vulnerable Families in Connecticut*, which sets out the histories of 250 families that are participating in the program, and an ethnography study. These studies are described in the discussion of the program.

develops and manages its own programs, all related to preventing child abuse and neglect and to supporting families. The programs we support meet the following guidelines:

The programs are built around the ideas that prevention is better than treatment, earlier is better than later.

The programs are part of a continuum of services that aim to reach all families.

programs known including abuse, violence, social agencies house commitment and to the programs as part of a programs funded Fund and s.

work in partnership with first-time parents facing the challenges of parenthood by enhancing their strengths, providing education, and creating community connections.

Each year, 10,000 children in Connecticut are born into families with at least one significant risk factor for abuse or neglect, with approximately 3,500 of these as first-time births. Most of the programs in the state have been designed to intervene after abuse has occurred. The Nurturing Families Network is unique, however, in that it focuses on high-risk parents and starts working with them at or before the birth. The program is offered to parents in the service areas of the 29 birthing hospitals in the state, with enhanced programs services in Hartford and New Haven. Almost 97% of the families offered the program voluntarily accept its services.

The program has been built around the ideas that:

A trusting and productive relationship between program staff and the family is the foundation for strengthening vulnerable families.

Consistent and expected contacts are the most effective way to establish a supportive and helpful relationship between program staff and the family.

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The Trust Fund provides funding for 43 Nurturing Families Network Programs throughout the state, including program sites in Manchester, Hartford, New London, New Haven, Danbury, Derby, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Willimantic, Torrington, Sharon, Norwich, Middletown, Stamford, Meriden, New Britain, Norwalk, Bristol, and Greenwich.

The program is composed of three primary

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Connections links new parents to volunteers and other resources that can help them adjust to the many demands of parenthood. The families are

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to address four patterns of behavior that are often found in abusive households: inappropriate developmental expectations, lack of empathy, strong belief in corporal punishment, and reversing parent/child roles. The information, support, and interaction provided by the Groups have been shown to moderate these patterns and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.

Approximately 5,000 new parents each year receive education and support under these first two components.

Intensive Home Visiting The Intensive Home Visiting services are offered to new parents who are most at risk of abusing or neglecting their child. This component provides home visitors, who visit the homes weekly for up to five years. The visitors become teachers, supporters, and advocates for the families and help the families get the community services they need. In 2005, approximately 1,200 families received the visiting services.



Research on the Nurturing Families Network Program The University of Hartford's Center for Social Research has vigorously researched the impact of the Nurturing Families Network program, and the results have been consistently strong.

Studies of the Intensive Home Visiting component have shown the following results:

- The immunization rate for 2-year-olds in homes receiving visits is 93%, compared to 73% for 2-year-olds with similar demographic backgrounds on Medicaid.

A significant percentage of the parents are completing high school, becoming employed, and moving out of financial hardship.

The percentage of mothers establishing independent households increased from 53% to 93% in the second year of program involvement. This is a significant finding; given the high number of mothers who were living in abusive or violent or potentially violent households at the start of their program involvement, the children will likely be safer and at lower risk of abuse.

The families demonstrated an improvement in parent-child relationships and in parenting capacity, attitudes, and behavior.

Studies of the Nurturing Families Network Program as a whole have found the following additional benefits:

Families who have been in the program for at least two years are significantly less dependent on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Their employment rates and income levels rise.

The longer parents are in the program, the greater the decrease in the likelihood they will abuse their child.

information about the Nurturing Families Network components that has helped us increase the effectiveness of the program.

The Life Stories of Vulnerable Families in Connecticut study looked at 250 families that have participated in the program. Through a series of interviews, researchers uncovered the issues facing the families, as well as the role of home visitors in helping them raise a healthy child. The study has given us a better understanding of the families served by the program. We have created a task force to examine the findings of this study and make recommendations for program improvement.

An ethnography study of the Nurturing Families Network had ethnographers following family service workers and observing them in the everyday context of their work. The ethnographers also talked with the families receiving services, the service workers, and the program supervisors. The study provided a significant amount of information about relationships in the program—between the families and their family service workers and between the family service workers and their program supervisors—which is helping us provide better services to the families, better training for the service workers, and better management for the program.

address only specific issues, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, the needs of children with disabilities, extreme poverty, or social isolation. The programs do not

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whole range of issues they face—including parenting and family relationships—by filling the gaps between the specific programs and services. The Trust Fund is currently providing funds for eight of these community-based programs:

- MELD for Growing Families, run by Family Services of Greater Waterbury
- Mom’s Program, at the New Britain General Hospital
- Real Men Make Better Dads, run by Madonna Place in Norwich
- Focus on Fathers, run by the Wheeler Clinic in Somers at Osborn Prison
- Mothershare, run by Hartford Interval House
- Parenting Academy and ABCD, run by the Child Guidance Center of Greater Bridgeport



Friendship Circle, at the Rushford Center in Middletown

Family School Connection, at the Betances School in Hartford

Approximately 1,000 high-risk families have been helped so far by these Family Empowerment Programs.

Help Me Grow Help Me Grow is a prevention program designed to identify children at risk for developmental or behavioral problems and to connect these children to existing community resources. Since 2002, we have reached over 7,000 children who are at risk, but do not qualify for the state's Birth-to-Three services.

The program was developed to meet the following guiding assumptions:

Children with developmental or behavioral problems may be falling through cracks or eluding early detection.

The challenge is in forming the connections to programs and services.

Children and families benefit from a coordinated, statewide system of early detection and intervention for children at risk.

The program has four main components:

- 1 Training child health providers in effective developmental surveillance
 - 2 Creating a resource inventory of community-based programs supporting child development and families
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- 1 Developing a coordinated, statewide system of referral that links young children and families to existing services and support
 - 2 Collecting data and analyzing children's

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Connecticut Children's Medical Center, with grant funding from the Commonwealth Foundation. The research found that health care providers identified twice as many children at risk for developmental delays following the training. The results of the study may be found in a February 2006 supplement of the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*.

Health care providers and parents are encouraged to call the Child Development Infoline with any concerns about a child's development or behavior. The staff will then use creative and resourceful techniques to find the best services to meet the needs of the family, including community



The Grandparent's Respite Fund provides grants of up to \$2,000 per family to provide for respite care, when a

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follow-up, family
education programs,
and the Ages & Stages
Developmental
Monitoring Program in
which more than 2,000
families have
participated.

The Child
Development Infoline
(a 1-800-number) is
administered by the
United Way of
Connecticut/Infoline,
with funding from the
Trust Fund and the
state Departments of
Mental Retardation,
Education, and Public
Health.

The Kinship Fund and Grandparent's Respite Fund

The Kinship Fund provides small grants to 2,400
children annually who have been orphaned or
abandoned and are living in the care of a
grandparent or financially struggling relative who has
been appointed guardian. The grants (\$50–\$500 per
child, or \$1,000 per family) provide funds for a
variety of purposes, such as new clothes, a bed and
desk, eyeglasses, or tutoring and after-school
programs. The grants, which are administered by 10
probate courts, help make life normal for children
facing a difficult adjustment to new circumstances.

The Trust Fund also funds other initiatives for grandparents and other relatives raising children, such as support groups and parenting programs that help with such issues as discipline and relating to children, assistance with basic needs, and information about how to deal with the various systems they encounter—from the Department of Social Services to the schools to the courts.

Working to help girls who are struggling with family problems, have run away, or are having serious problems at school, the Trust Fund will be providing programming in collaboration with DCF, to six girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen in a group home. The mission of the group home is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for these girls, as they build life skills and work with their families to resolve their problems.

communication with her family and work toward reunification. If this is not possible, the staff at group home will work to create a different positive option for the girl.

The group home will be located in eastern Connecticut and will be open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day to girls who need help and who might not be able to find needed help and services through other programs.

Parent Trust Fund The Parent Trust Fund was established in 2002, due to the efforts of the Connecticut Commission on Children and other advocates, to offer leadership training and grants

Parent Trust Fund is directed through a collaborative partnership in which the Children's Trust Fund administers the program and the Commission on Children provides technical assistance and quality control oversight. The Parent Trust Fund receives state, federal or private money from grants and gifts.

Research evaluating the program has shown that the increased parent involvement has had a positive effect on children's learning, development, school attendance and achievement, and attitudes about school. The parents themselves have become aware of their own abilities. Many have changed jobs, gotten more schooling, and developed higher expectations of their children and of the school system.

Volunteer Services The Trust Fund depends on the work of many volunteers to staff and run programs. The Governor's Prevention Partnership will be key in helping the Trust Fund find volunteers by developing relationships between community-based programs and local corporations. The Partnership will hire a staff person, who will serve as a broker working with corporate contacts to identify, recruit, and train volunteers to work in the programs. The staff person will perform the work needed—from solving problems to developing policies—until the relationship between the corporation and the program has become established.

The work of the Partnership has helped strengthen communities as a whole, with local businesses

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a result of CAPTA, all states now have the mandatory reporting laws and investigative procedures.

The Trust Fund has been named Connecticut's lead agency for the CAPTA Title II program (Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect), which provides grants that support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, and enhance initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect. Several of the programs for which the Trust Fund has gotten CAPTA funding are described below.

Family Development Training The training program, a joint initiative of the Trust Fund and the University of Connecticut's Center for the Study of Culture, Health and Human Development teaches service providers the skills needed to help individuals and families attain both healthy self-reliance and interdependence with their communities. A key component in this training is a curriculum developed by Cornell University, which is strength-based and family-focused, and covers home visiting, collaboration, communications, cultural competence, and community outreach.

The training program offers two courses. The first is an 80-hour community-based program that gives comprehensive skill-building training to people who work with families. Participants who complete this training, prepare a skills-based portfolio, and pass the competency-based examination are eligible for an FDC credential from the School of Family Studies. More than 3,200 participants have

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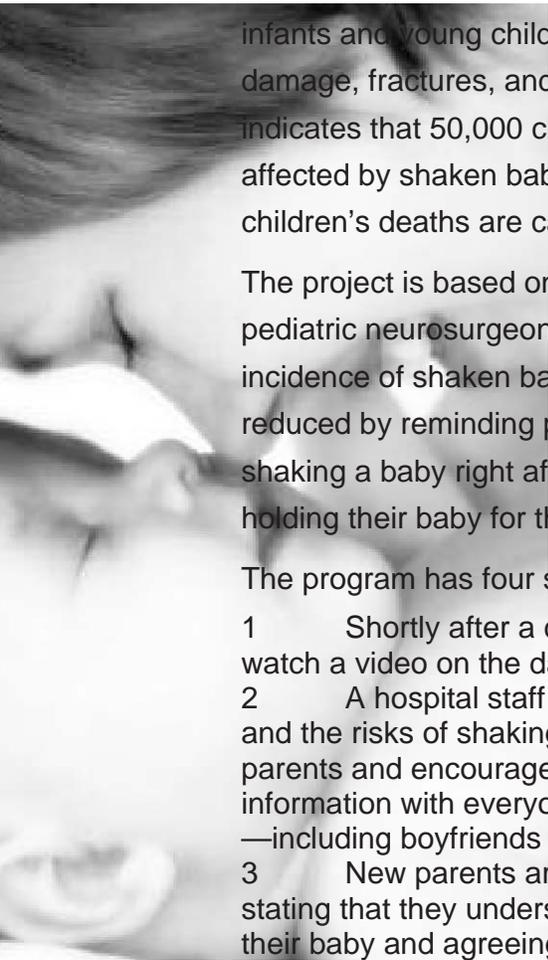
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infants and young children, which can cause brain damage, fractures, and death. National research indicates that 50,000 children each year are affected by shaken baby syndrome, and 15% of children's deaths are caused by it.

The project is based on the work of Dr. Mark Dias, a pediatric neurosurgeon, who suggested that the incidence of shaken baby syndrome could be reduced by reminding parents of the danger of shaking a baby right after birth, when they are holding their baby for the first time.

The program has four steps:

- 1 Shortly after a child is born, the parents watch a video on the dangers of shaking their baby.
- 2 A hospital staff member discusses the video and the risks of shaking their baby with the new parents and encourages the parents to share the information with everyone who will care for the child—including boyfriends and babysitters.
- 3 New parents are asked to sign an affidavit stating that they understand the dangers of shaking their baby and agreeing to not shake their child. They also agree to inform all others who will care for their child of the risks of shaking a baby.
- 4 Program coordinators follow-up with the new parents to reinforce the message and to see how they are doing.

Research on the effectiveness of this approach has shown that there is a 57% reduction in the incidence of shaken baby syndrome in families who have gone through the program.

Through the efforts of the Trust Fund, information based on the Dias model is being distributed, and the ideas are beginning to take hold. More than 60

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Research has shown that, aside from the physical and emotional trauma, a child sexual abuse victim suffers many long-term effects, including depression, anxiety, inappropriate sexual behavior, poor self-esteem, and difficulty with close relationships. Early identification of sexual abuse appears crucial to reducing the suffering and to establishing the support systems that lead to appropriate psychological development and healthier adult functioning.

The *Stranger You Know* is a child sexual abuse prevention project that is changing the focus of efforts to address this issue. Traditional efforts typically have put the burden of dealing with child sexual abuse on children by educating young children on the dangers of, for example, talking with strangers or letting adults touch them inappropriately. The Project is now looking at ways to put the burden back on adults.

identified offense patterns, and used study circles to identify and prioritize feasible opportunities for prevention programs that involve adults. The committee produced a first-of-its-kind study of the latest available data on both victims and perpetrators, and has held two statewide forums. More than 200 participants from the child welfare, judicial, and health and human services fields have attended

As an outcome of this work people in the community are being informed about the nature of

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recognize a sexual offender, how sexual offenders
operate, and how to keep their children safe.

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Since 1997, the Trust Fund has made significant progress. It has been working with hundreds of other organizations on prevention initiatives and has done significant program development, research, and planning.

Over the coming years, the Trust Fund will continue to build on its efforts to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, and enhance prevention initiatives; and to

support networks of coordinating activities to better strengthen families.

Our goals focus on the need to bring children and families into our programs. We need to conduct even more research to develop better, more useful programs. We are moving toward activities that raise awareness about the state of the problems of child abuse and neglect, and we will continue to support activities to deal with these problems.

Through our membership in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Clearinghouse and along with our partners and state agencies, we will dedicate our resources toward becoming a national center devoted to furthering the work of the Clearinghouse.

It is essential to our work to ensure that we respond to our development needs and support our whole range of activities over the coming years. We will continue to adapt, and organize our management systems to make sure they work.



operations



connection with the community The

n's Trust Fund works with more than 200 program staff members, more than 130 certified trainers, and many partner entities throughout the state. The program staff members are paraprofessionals, social workers, clinicians, child development specialists

managerial and financial personnel.

ainers bring our programs to community-based agencies throughout the state, help form the networks among service providers, and hold meetings and forums to educate service providers, state agencies, partners, and the public about our programs and the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect.

ng The Trust Fund provides significant training to staff, partners, and program participants, in relation to programs themselves and managing the programs.

m Training The Trust Fund provides broad-based training for staff on prevention strategies and approaches, family support, and education. Recent training initiatives have focused on preventing shaken baby syndrome and childhood sexual abuse, on ensuring physical safety to children and adolescents, and on working in shelters with the Head Start and Birth-to-Three program.

s comprehensive training for all levels of staff working within the Nurturing Families Network. The training covers the program's cultural diversity, and ways to make the program more responsive to fathers. More than 200 service providers have been trained to meet the requirements of their work, including engagement, assessment, and child development skills; clinical supervision for supervisors; and training focused on the needs of program managers.

the Help Me Grow program, health care providers in 153 pediatric and family practices have been trained to recognize early signs of mental problems and to refer those children and their families for services. Another program trains volunteer coaches in injury prevention in youth sports.

Family Development Institute, which was described earlier, provides a statewide training and credentialing program for service providers who work with families.

research that evaluates our major programs may point to areas in which additional training of staff or service providers could improve the effectiveness of the program. When an area is identified, we decide how to provide the training (for example, in forums or classrooms) and what curriculum to use. Ongoing program research tells us how effective the training has been and helps us ensure that we are always providing the best service to our families.

ement Training The Trust Fund provides technical assistance and training on program management and special topics for staff throughout the year. In 2005, the Trust Fund trained 300 staff working in programs funded by the Trust Fund and 700 staff working in its network.

The Children's Trust Fund is located at 410 Capitol Avenue in Hartford. It employs 18 staff members, all state employees, and a leadership team that directs our programs, forms our connections to communities and service providers, conducts fundraising, and works in advocacy on prevention issues.

Staff members are social workers, applied psychologists, child developmental specialists, and managerial and fiscal personnel with masters-level educations; all have many years of experience in the field of preventing child abuse and neglect.

Financial information The Trust Fund receives money from the federal government, the State of Connecticut, private foundations, and other private sources. The Trust Fund has been designated as Connecticut's lead agency for the federal Department of Health and Human Services Community-Based Grants to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect. The grants support administrative costs, as well as programs that train human services staff in prevention strategies and approaches, build community partnerships, and support new initiatives, such as efforts to prevent shaken baby syndrome. Every dollar contributed or appropriated to the Trust Fund is matched approximately 2 cents by the federal government.

The Trust Fund provides funding to public and private non-profit organizations—including schools, hospitals, shelters, police departments, and community programs—who work to support families and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The Trust Fund mails information packets to more than 4,500 individuals and organizations with information on how to receive funding and how to participate in programs.

The Trust Fund has been working to increase its outreach to make sure that it provides funding to a broad range of programs. It funds programs that provide services to teenage girls, grandparents raising grandchildren and families with children at risk for developmental delays. Funding information and sources for the major programs may be found at the back of this report.

Working principles As we have gathered experiences in the field of prevention services, we have developed a set of working principles that underlie all of our activities. These working principles present our philosophy, our way of meeting our goals, and our core values.

Working Principles of the Children's Trust Fund:

- We have a positive approach to our work and produce quality outcomes —while maintaining our humor.
- We are kind and sensitive to the strengths and challenges of individuals, families, and communities.
- We are cognizant of and guided by what is in the best interest of the organization.
- We value teamwork, share knowledge, foster growth, and support each other.

- We are interdependent and collaborate at local, state, and federal levels.
- We value the breadth of what cultures, individual families, and community agencies bring to our work.
- We value the process of completing a task.
- We conduct ourselves with professional integrity at all times.
- We are responsible for our feelings and behaviors and for communicating with others as clearly as possible.

nowledgments

n's Trust Fund would like to thank everyone who supports and contributes to our work, including the Governor, state legis
r community-based agencies and service providers, and partners. We are deeply grateful to those who fund our efforts, i
state governments, private foundations, and individual donors. A list of our recent donors may be found at the back of this



